

Constantine

time have reduced it to its present almost shapeless and unrecognisable mass.

Close to the Augustseum there began to rise the stately magnificence of the Imperial Palace, the Great Palace, *TO psya nocXdnov*, as it was called to distinguish it from all others. This was really a cluster of palaces spread over an enormous area, a self-contained city within itself, strongly protected with towers and walls. Here were the Imperial residences, gardens, churches, barracks, and baths, and for eight hundred years, until this quarter was forsaken for the palace of Blachernae in another region of the city, Emperors continued to build and rebuild on this favoured site. In later years the Great Palace consisted of an interconnected group of buildings bearing such names as Chrysotriklinon, Trikonchon, Daphne, —so called from a diviner's column brought to Constantinople from the Grove of Daphne near Antioch, —Chalce, Boucoleon, and Manavra. One at least of these dated back to Constantine. This was the Porphyry Palace, with a high pyramidal roof, constructed of porphyry brought especially from Rome. It was dedicated to the service of the ladies of the Imperial Family, who retired thither to be away from the vexations, intrigues, and anxieties of every-day life during the time of their pregnancy* In the seclusion of this Porphyry Palace they were undisturbed and secure, and the children born within walls thus sacred to Imperial maternity were distinguished by the title of " Porphyrogeniti," which plays so prominent a part in Byzantine history.

Constantine built below ground as well as above.